



Introduced Version

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 27

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing that the purpose of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 is to speed up Veterans Health Administration (VHA) processing for health care requests by allowing veterans who face wait times of more than 30 days, or live more than 40 miles from the nearest VHA facility capable of treating them, to receive treatment at a non-VHA community hospital, and requesting that James Brown, director of the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Honorable Robert A. McDonald, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, take action to ensure the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 is being administered properly so that our veterans promptly receive the health care they have earned and deserve.

ARNOLD J

February 11, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs & The Military.



Introduced

Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 27

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing that the purpose
2 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014
3 is to speed up Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
4 processing for health care requests by allowing veterans who
5 face wait times of more than 30 days, or live more than 40
6 miles from the nearest VHA facility capable of treating them,
7 to receive treatment at a non-VHA community hospital, and
8 requesting that James Brown, director of the Indiana
9 Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Honorable Robert A.
10 McDonald, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, take
11 action to ensure the Veterans Access, Choice and
12 Accountability Act of 2014 is being administered properly so
13 that our veterans promptly receive the health care they have
14 earned and deserve.

15 *Whereas, Frequently, veterans in need of specialized*
16 *healthcare must pay up front to travel across state lines to be*
17 *reimbursed later, instead of receiving treatment at local*
18 *community hospitals;*

19 *Whereas, The Veterans Choice Act permits veterans to*
20 *seek care at community hospitals by use of a Veterans Choice*

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1 *Card when specialized care is unavailable or unreasonably*
2 *delayed at local VHA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics;*

3 *Whereas, During the process of obtaining authorization*
4 *to seek treatment locally through their Veterans Choice*
5 *Card, veterans face delays that defeat the purpose of the*
6 *Veterans Choice Act;*

7 *Whereas, Sending veterans out of state for treatment is*
8 *costly and inconvenient, delays treatment, and is a stressor*
9 *that negatively impacts health outcomes;*

10 *Whereas, It is the duty of the United States and the State*
11 *of Indiana to ensure that veterans promptly receive the care*
12 *they need for the sacrifices they have made defending our*
13 *nation; and*

14 *Whereas, The Veterans Choice Act attempted to alleviate*
15 *long wait times and provide convenient, first rate care for*
16 *our veterans, but has thus far failed to do so: Therefore,*

17 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
18 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

19 SECTION 1. That the Indiana State Senate requests
20 immediate action by both the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
21 and the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure the
22 effective administration of the Veterans Choice Act so that
23 veterans may quickly and easily access local health care options
24 when facing undue delay or long commutes.

25 SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by
26 the Principal Clerk of the Indiana State Senate to the Indiana
27 Director of Veterans' Affairs and the U.S. Secretary of the
28 Department of Veterans Affairs.

